

Abraham Bolden First Black Secret Service Agent For JFK Bolden Was Framed Because He Knew To Much

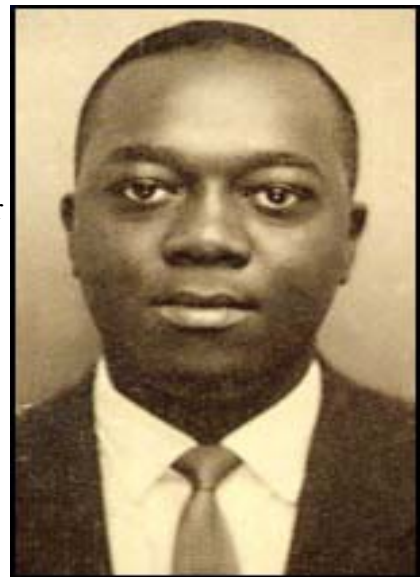
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Abraham Bolden (born January 19, 1935) is an American former [United States Secret Service](#) agent and author.

Biography

Abraham Bolden grew up in [East St. Louis, Illinois](#).^[1] After receiving a degree in music from [Lincoln University of Missouri](#),^[2] he began his professional career as an [Illinois state trooper](#). He joined the Secret Service in 1960 during the Eisenhower administration. In 1961, he became the first African American member of the Secret Service's Presidential Protective Division after being appointed by President [John F. Kennedy](#).^[3] According to Bolden, he first met Kennedy on April 28, 1961 while working an event at the [McCormick Place](#) in Chicago.^[4] Bolden said that Kennedy personally invited him to join the White House detail.^[4] He worked in the dual capacities of guarding the President and investigating counterfeiting.^[5]

Bolden was [arraigned](#) in Chicago on May 20, 1964 on federal charges that he had solicited a bribe from a counterfeiting ring that he had helped break.^[6] He was accused of seeking \$50,000 in exchange for a secret file on the investigation.^[7] The government's case rested primarily on the testimony of two men, Frank Jones and Joseph Spagnoli, both facing



felony charges originating from the same Secret Service office that Bolden was employed and who were facing upcoming trials before the same Chicago court. The case against Jones was dismissed after the Bolden conviction.^[8] The copy of the secret government file on the Spagnoli counterfeiting operation that Bolden allegedly put up for sale was never recovered, last being seen in the Chicago offices of the Secret Service, disappearing before charges were brought against Bolden.

Bolden was not accused of receiving or was he ever found to be in possession of any illicit funds from the accused felons who testified against him. He maintained his innocence, asserting that he had been framed because he planned to expose dereliction among the agents assigned to guard Kennedy in front of the Commission. The Secret Service denied Bolden's claims. United States Attorney for

Accused Agent Says JFK Guards Were Lax

CHICAGO, May 21 (UPI) — A Secret Service agent charged with trying to sell a government report said yesterday he is being framed because he intended to reveal details of heavy drinking and "general laxity" among agents assigned to President Kennedy.

Abraham Bolden, 29, who in 1961 became the first Negro assigned to the Secret Service detail guarding the President, outlined his charges in a news conference at his home here.

FILE SALE

He is charged with trying to sell a confidential file to a man indicted in the alleged counterfeiting of \$500,000 in bonds and checks.

Mr. Bolden said he told another agent two weeks ago:



ABRAHAM BOLDEN

the Northern District of Illinois, [Edward Hanrahan](#), was quoted in news reports from May 1964, as calling Bolden's assertion of "overall general laxity" of Secret Service agents assigned to the late President Kennedy, and Bolden's belief he was prosecuted for doing so, as "fantastic." Hanrahan implied Bolden should have brought the charges in 1961. Bolden claimed he did just that, to James J. Rowley, the head of the Secret Service, but without result. [\[9\]](#)

Bolden's first jury deadlocked 11-1 in favor of conviction, at which time presiding judge [Joseph Sam Perry](#) issued an [Allen charge](#) in which he expressed his belief that Bolden was guilty but that the jury was free to disregard his opinion. The jury remained deadlocked, and Perry declared a [mistrial](#) on July 11, 1964. In the retrial, Bolden was convicted 12-0, and Judge Perry sentenced him to six years in prison.[\[3\]](#) Bolden appealed his conviction to the [United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit](#), based in part on Perry's Allen charge in the first trial. Bolden claimed that the charge was evidence that Perry was not impartial and that his failure to [recuse](#) himself denied Bolden a fair trial. Further, in the second trial before Judge Perry on August 12, 1964, the prosecution's case featured testimony by indicted counterfeiter Joseph Spagnoli. In his own later trial for counterfeiting, held before the same Judge Perry, Spagnoli confessed that he had perjured himself when he testified against Bolden. Spagnoli said Prosecutor Richard Sikes had told him to lie.[\[10\]](#) The Appeals Court upheld Bolden's conviction in a decision issued December 29, 1965.[\[8\]](#)



Following his release from prison, Bolden worked as a quality control supervisor in the automotive industry until his retirement in 2001.[\[11\]](#)

In January 1978, Abraham Bolden gave testimony on his experiences as an agent with the Secret Service to investigators of the [Select Committee on Assassinations of the US House of Representatives](#). The Final Report of that Committee, released in March 1979 included these conclusions: "The Secret Service possessed information that was not properly analyzed, investigated, or used by the Secret Service in connection with the president's trip to Dallas; in addition, Secret Service agents in the motorcade were inadequately prepared to protect the president from a sniper."[\[12\]](#)

Bolden was interviewed for the 2006 television documentary [Conspiracy Files: The JFK Assassination](#) based on information in the book *Ultimate Sacrifice* by [Lamar Waldron](#).[\[13\]](#) The program asserted that mobster [John Roselli](#) was responsible for framing Bolden.[\[13\]](#)

The Echo From Dealey Plaza

In 2008, Bolden published his memoir, *The Echo From Dealey Plaza*.^[14] He was interviewed about the book by NPR's Farai Chideya.^[15]

In his memoir, Bolden claimed to have overheard Secret Service agents say that they would not protect President Kennedy from an assassination:

[President Kennedy] alienated Southerners and conservatives around the country, most of whom were already suspicious of him. In this, the Secret Service reflected the more backward elements of America. Many of the agents with whom I worked

were products of the South.... I heard some members of the White House detail say that if shots were fired at the president, they'd take no action to protect him. A few agents vowed that they would quit the Secret Service rather than give up their lives for Kennedy.^[16]



Personal

Bolden's wife, Barbara, died in 2005.^[17]

Portrayals in fiction

Abraham Bolden appears in the 2011 television miniseries *The Kennedys*. He is depicted joining the President's protective detail and later President Kennedy turns to him as a sounding board during the crisis surrounding the 1962 desegregation of the [University of Mississippi](#). Bolden is portrayed by Rothaford Gray.

Further reading

- Bolden, Abraham (2008). *The Echo From Dealey Plaza: The True Story of the First African American on the White House Secret Service Detail and His Quest for Justice After the Assassination of JFK*. Random House Digital, Inc. [ISBN 0-307-38201-X](#).

Jim Marrs & Special Guest Abraham Bolden - Amazing JFK Story Part1 - June 2012 VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iB4Nqr5-o3M>

Jim Marrs & Special Guest Abraham Bolden - Amazing JFK Story Part2 - June 2012 VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dp-rE0k5es>

Jim Marrs & Special Guest Abraham Bolden - Amazing JFK Story Part 3 - June 2012 VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5N1v-3NoOM>

Jim Marrs & Special Guest Abraham Bolden - Amazing JFK Story Part4 - June 2012 VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZbZAc26EAI>

JFK assassination plot in Chicago VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBKcJAwwKrQ>

JFK Assassination Abraham Bolden 1st Black Secret Service Part 1of 2 Night Fright Show Brent Holland VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-hyC5NXD-4>

JFK Assassination Abraham Bolden 1st Black Secret Service Part 2of 2 Night Fright Show Brent Holland VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7HSnpPxkVM>

Alex Jones - Don Adams - JFK Assassination - part 1/3 VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmeadelGvPE>

Alex Jones - Don Adams - JFK Assassination - part 2/3 VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFJ9bZ-A5dI>

Alex Jones - Don Adams - JFK Assassination - part 3/3 VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAEZ8xPd9fA>

Conspiracy Theory W/ Jesse Ventura: JFK Assassination VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfDASCapA9Q>

The Men Who Killed Kennedy: Part 1 The Coup d'Etat VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2agPurqFJk>

JFK – The Case for Conspiracy Part 1 (Robert Groden) (1993) VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKw1nljVCMw>

JFK - The Case for Conspiracy Part 2 - The Kennedy Assassination Films (Robert Groden) (1995) VIDEO BELOW

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARsjjauPrOg>

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